

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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42

ACTION ARA-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 SP-02 PM-03 L-02 NSC-05 NSCE-00

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R 142212Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9890

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 1492

LIMDIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS ALL ARA POSTS FOR INFORMATION

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OAS CS

SUBJECT: OAS SECRETARY GENERAL: FACIO COULD BE CANDIDATE

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH ME APRIL 14, FOREIGN MINISTER GONZALO FACIO SAID HE WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT THE POSITION OF OAS SECRETARY GENERAL IF THE JOB COULD BE GIVEN SOME AUTHORITY AND IF HIS SELECTION COULD BE BY CONSENSUS. FACIO STRESSED HE WOULD NOT BE INTERESTED IN THE JOB WITH THE REDUCED POWERS IT NOW HAS.

2. FACIO SAID IT APPEARS THAT NONE OF PRESENT CANDIDATES IS LIKELY TO GET A MAJORITY OF VOTES AT THE FORTHCOMING OAS MEETING. SAPENA PASTOR, THE LEADING CANDIDATE, HAS ONLY NINE FIRST BALLOT VOTES. GOMEZ BURGESS HAS SEVEN AND GARCIA BEDOLLA OF PERU ONLY TWO. NONE OF THESE CANDIDATES IS LIKELY TO IMPROVE HIS POSITION AFTER THE FIRST BALLOT. ORFILA, WHO APPEARED TO BE A GOOD COMPROMISE CANDIDATE, NOW SEEMS TO HAVE LITTLE CHANCE BECAUSE LATIN AMERICANS ARE NOT PREPARED TO SEE YET ANOTHER ARGENTINE ELECTED TO AN IMPORTANT INTERNATIONAL POSITION. IN FACT, BRAZIL IS BELIEVED TO BE WORKING QUIETLY TO INSURE THAT ORFILA DOES NOT GET ELECTED.

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3. FACIO SAID THAT FACED WITH DEADLOCKED SITUATION MLN

SEVERAL COUNTRIES, INCLUDING GUATEMALA, MEXICO, COLOMBIA
AND VENEZUELA, HAVE ASKED HIM TO BE THE CANDIDATE FOR
SECRETARY GENERAL. FACIO SAID HE IS NOT SEEKING THE JOB,
BUT WOULD BE WILLING TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION WITH OTHER
FOREIGN MINISTERS AND, IF THE CONDITIONS MENTIONED ABOVE
CAN BE MET, HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT THE POST.

4. SINCE FACIO CLAIMS HE HAS NOT YET DISCUSSED THIS
MATTER WITH HIS OWN PRESIDENT, REQUEST THAT THIS INFORMATION
BE VERY CLOSELY HELD.
TODMAN

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ARA POSTS.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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Type: TE
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